March 31, 2008

**KENTUCKY:** The first week of March experienced below normal temperatures with above normal rainfall. During the week two significant winter storms tracked across the State. One storm on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> dumped as much as 3 in. of rain at some locations. A second storm on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> dropped as much as a foot of snow at some locations along the Ohio River. Rainfall for the period totaled 2.32 in. statewide which was 1.23 in. above normal. A polar air mass in the region accounted for below normal temperatures that averaged 39 degrees across the state, 5 degrees below normal and 3 degrees warmer than last week.

Normal temperatures and below normal rainfall occurred the second week of the month. Two weather systems similar to last week tracked across the state but the severe weather that was reported in other states did not occur in Kentucky. Mild temperatures were reported across the state during the last full week of winter. Temperatures averaged 45 degrees across the state which was normal and 6 degrees higher than the previous week. Below normal rainfall was reported for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week out of the past 4. Rainfall for the period totaled 0.77 in. statewide which was 0.20 in. below normal.

Above normal temperatures and rainfall were experienced the third week of March. A late-winter storm brought heavy rainfall to parts of Kentucky and many central states along with major flooding. West Kentucky and counties along the Ohio River received from 3 to 6 in. of rain. Rainfall totals decreased to 1 to 3 in. in the central and Bluegrass sections and to less than an inch in the southeast part of the state. Rainfall for the period totaled 2.13 in. statewide which was 1.11 in. above normal. Temperatures remained mild as normal values were reported for the second straight week. They averaged 47 degrees across the state which was normal and 2 degrees above the previous week.

The last week of March was the first full week of spring. It proved to a mild one weather wise with near normal temperatures and rainfall. Temperatures still showed a little hint of winter lingering as morning lows dropped below the freezing mark throughout the state a few times during the week. Temperatures averaged 48 degrees across the state which was 1 degree below normal and 1 degree above the previous week. The majority of rainfall in the Bluegrass State fell on Thursday and Friday as a stalled frontal boundary kicked off showers and thunderstorms throughout the two day period. Rainfall for the period totaled 1.04 in. statewide which was 0.01 in. above normal.